IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

February / March 2021

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

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Historical
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Host your next function at Irondale's heritage church

Rental Information & Newsletter Editor
Carol 705-457-8438

Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

centre@IrondaleOntario.ca

~Rentals~

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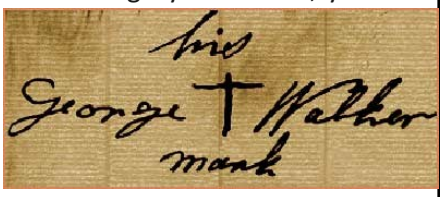
How 'X' Came to Mean 'Kiss'

The idea of using a kiss to sign off on valentines also has a long history. The use of "X" came to represent Christianity, or the cross, in the Middle Ages.

The symbol was used to sign off on documents. If you could not sign your name, you made an X where the signature should be. The writer would often kiss the mark as a sign of their oath. As popularity grew, kings and commoners would use it to certify books, letters and paperwork. These records were described as having been "sealed with a kiss."



Editor's note—the picture used on the right was taken from the internet as an example.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, especially by Irish communities and organizations so I thought I would find a few facts to share with you.

- March 17 is actually a religious holiday tho' most celebrate the Irish culture, customs, food and drink.
- St. Patrick was one of Ireland's patron saints, ministered Christianity in Ireland in the fifth century
- Luke Wadding (1558-1657) was an Irish Franciscan friar. His persistent efforts turned March 17 into a 'feast day'.
- Wearing Green - makes you invisible to the Leprechauns - and it is well know than Leprechauns like to pinch people.
- According to Irish folklore, leprechauns were cranky tricksters who you wouldn't want to mess with. They live alone and pass the time by mending the shoes of Irish fairies. The American, good-natured leprechaun we know today soon became the symbol.
- Foods that are enjoyed on St. Patrick's Day include …
  Irish brown bread — Corned beef and cabbage
  Beef and Guinness pie — Irish coffee — Irish Stew
  Irish cream chocolate mousse cake — Irish potato soup
  Irish potato champ, also called poundies, cally or pandy.
- The shamrock is a leaf on the clover plant and a symbol of the Holy Trinity.
- The rainbow signifies hope and promise of better things to come.
- Pot of Gold signifies all of one's hopes and dreams and is to find it at the end of the rainbow - a sudden huge windfall.

Editor's note - far too many websites to list were used to research this article.

We have had this embroidered sampler hanging near our front door for so long—don't remember where I picked it up. It should be cleaned & pressed tho' material seems to be considerably old, I am hesitant to remove it from the frame.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is celebrated every February 14 as couples across the globe honor their spouses, partners and sweethearts. Valentine's Day has people in relationships with impossible expectations and the day leaves single people out.

Fun Valentine Facts

- *Origins to a Bloody Pagan Festival.* Valentine's Day actually originates from pretty grim stories. 1) Mid-February was when the Roman Fertility Festival of Lupercalia was held, where men sacrificed a goat and a dog and reportedly whipped women with the skins of the dead animals in the hopes of increasing the women's fertility. 2) The execution of a priest named Valentine by Roman Emperor Claudius II on February 14 during the third century. 3) St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, was martyred in 269 C.E. for marrying Christian couples.
- *Letters Addressed to 'Juliet'* Every year thousands send letters addressed to Juliet (of "Romeo & Juliet") in Verona, Italy. The city marks the location of the Shakespearean tale. The letters are dutifully answered by a team of volunteers from the Juliet Club. The club awards the "Cara Giulietta" ("Dear Juliet") prize to the author of the most touching love letter.
- *Box of Chocolates* The tradition of giving a box of candy was started in the 19th century by Richard Cadbury, of the British chocolate manufacturing family. They had just developed a new technique to create more varieties of chocolates. Cadbury saw an opportunity to sell more chocolates.
- *First Valentine Was Written From a Prison.* Charles, Duke of Orleans wrote the love letter to his second wife at the age of 21. He had been captured at the Battle of Agincourt. A prisoner for more than 20 years, he never saw his wife's reaction to the poem he penned.
- *'Vinegar Valentines' Discouraged Suitors.* During the Victoria Era, if you didn't want the attention of certain suitors, you would send "vinegar valentines." These cards, also called 'penny dreadfuls', comically insulted and rejected unwanted admirers. They ranged from a gentle jab to downright aggressiveness.
- *'Wearing Your Heart on Your Sleeve'* The term "wearing your heart on your sleeve" may have origins during a Middle Ages festival. Men would draw the name of women who they would be coupled with for the upcoming year. The men wore the names on their sleeves to show their bond during the festivities.
- *'Sweethearts' Candies Started Out as Lozenges.* Those chalky heart-shaped candies that are passed out every Valentine's Day started out as lozenges. The idea to print messages on the candy came about in 1866, and the candies got their heart shape in 1901, appealing specifically to Valentine's Day sweethearts.
- *Cupid Began as a Greek God.* Originally known to the ancient Greeks as Eros, the god of love, was the son of Greek goddess Aphrodite. He would use two sets of arrows—one for love and another for hate—to play with the emotions of his targets. Stories of his mischief were told by Romans, and he adopted the childlike appearance that we recognize today.

HAGGIS

1 sheep's lung
1 Sheep's stomach
1 sheep's heart
1 sheep's liver
1/2 lb fresh suet
3/4 cup oatmeal
3 onions, finely chopped
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp nutmeg
3/4 cup stock

Editor's note:
Tried a mouthful once ...

Rinse the stomach thoroughly and soak overnight in cold salted water.
Rinse the liver, heart, and tongue. In a large pot of boiling salt water, cook these parts over medium heat for 2 hours. Remove and mince., be sure to remove any gristle or skin.
In a large bowl, combine the minced 'meats' with suet, onions and toasted oats. Season with salt, pepper, and dried herbs. Moisten this mixture with some of the cooking water so the it sticks together. Remove the stomach from the cold salt water and fill 2/3 with the mixture. Sew or tie the stomach closed.
Pierce the stomach several times by poking holes with a fork.
Gently place the filled stomach, be careful not to splash in a large pot of boiling water. Cook over high heat for 3 hours.
Serve with mashed potatoes.

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John & Arthur taking on mail

First transatlantic flight

On the 15th of June 1919, John Alcock and Arthur Whitten-Brown made world history by completing the first non-stop transatlantic flight.

John Alcock was born 1892 in Manchester England, Arthur Whitten-Brown born 1886 in Scotland to American parents. John loved to fly, receiving his license at 20; Arthur's career in engineering. Both men were imprisoned during WWI.

In 1913 a London newspaper offered a prize of £10,000 "to the aviator who shall first cross the Atlantic in an aeroplane in flight from any point in the United States of America, Canada or Newfoundland to any point in Great Britain or Ireland in 72 continuous hours."
The competition was suspended with the outbreak of war in 1914 but reopened after Armistice was declared in 1918.

John had dreamed of flying the Atlantic one day. The Vickers engineering and aviation firm had considered entering their Vimy IV twin-engine bomber in the competition, John convinced them he was their pilot. Arthur was looking for work when he persuaded John and the Vickers firm to hire him as John's navigator.

Competition Day arrived

Several teams had entered the competition. When Alcock and Brown arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland, one of the competitors was the Handley Page. Admiral Mark Kerr, leader of the Handley Page was determined not to take off until the plane was in perfect condition. The Vickers team quickly assembled their plane and, at around 1:45 p.m. on 14 June, whilst the Handley Page team were conducting yet another test, the Vickers plane took off from Lester's Field.

The Flight

Nothing about the flight was text book
⇒ Take off barely cleared the trees
⇒ wind-driven electrical generator failed depriving them of radio contact, their intercom and heat
⇒ an exhaust pipe burst
⇒ electric heating suits failed making them miserably cold in the open cockpit
⇒ And flew through a snowstorm so now they are soaked as well.

Arrival

After a record 16 hour flight from Canada, the two landed their plane near Clifden in Galway, Ireland … keep in mind it had only been 16 years since the first powered flight.

Landing was not what was expected. What looked like grass field was indeed a bog, causing the plane to 'nose-over'. Neither man was hurt, altho' the plane suffered.

Winston Churchill, presented them with the *Daily Mail* prize for the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by aeroplane in "less than 72 consecutive hours."
A small amount of mail was carried on the flight, making it the first transatlantic airmail flight as well the two men were awarded the honour of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) by King George V at Windsor Castle.

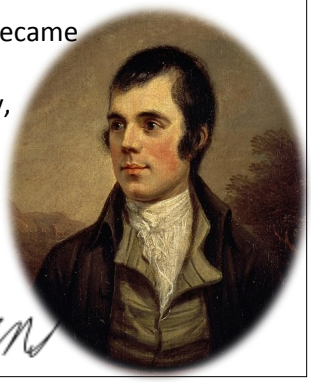
A monument, as a tribute to these men and their flight, stands in Clifden, Connemara, County Galway, Ireland.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_flight_of_Alcock_and_Brown

Robbie Burns Night is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns. Robbie, as he became known, lived a very short life, just 37 years (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796). He is the author of many Scots poems. Celebratory suppers are normally held on or near the poet's birthday, 25 January, part of the Burns Night. (Scots: Burns Nicht; North Americans call it Robbie Burns Day).

The event includes a meal of haggis, neeps (mashed turnip) and tatties (mashed potatoes), recital of one or more of Burns' poems, Scotch whiskey and generally some Scottish music and dancers.

His poem (and song) "Auld Lang Syne" is often sung at Hogmanay (the last day of the year), and "Scots Wha Hae" served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country.



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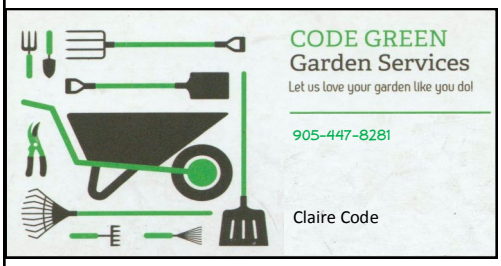

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24 Trivia Questions / Answers from Dec20/Jan21 issue

1. What year was Elvis Presley's first ever concert? **1954**
2. What was the best selling album of all time? **Thriller**
3. What is the first album the Beatles released? **Please please me.**
4. Who originally sang the song 'Susi Q' when it was released in 1957? **Dale Hawkins**
5. How many strings does a violin have? **Four**
6. What is the largest lake in Manitoba? **Lake Winnipeg**
7. Which province is the largest producer of uranium? **Saskatchewan**
8. Founded in 1885, what is the oldest national park in Canada? **Banff**
9. What is the most popular fruit in Canada? **Bananas**
10. What disease claimed the lives of 3000 Montrealers during an epidemic in 1885? **Small Pox**
11. What is the postal code for Santa Claus? **H0H 0H0**
12. What is the smallest country in the world? **Vatican City**
13. What is the oldest known vegetable? **Peas**
14. Who was the first woman shot by the FBI? **Bonnie**
15. In the Wizard of Oz, how many times does Dorothy tap the ruby shoes to get back home? **Three**
16. In the movie the 'Triffids', what are the triffids? **Pods**
17. Which of the dwarfs in 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' does not have a beard? **Dopey**
18. Who played Rody Yates on Rawhide? **Clint Eastwood**
19. What film did Louise Fletcher win the best actress Oscar for? **One Flew Over the Cuckoo Nest**
20. How many holes in a 10 pin bowling ball? **Three**
21. What is referred to as the sport of the kings? **Horse Racing**
22. What is the point value of the letter K in scrabble? **7**
23. What athlete earned $70,000 in 1927? **Babe Ruth**
24. What do you call a poker hand with five cards of the same suit? **Flush**

Well ... How did you do?

Irondale Events are advertised in these local papers

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

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- available at most stores across the county.

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We humbly ask for your assistance ....

It's a rough time for many people and companies; charities like ours are not exempt from this hardship. Over the past 8 years, your support through attending our fundraisers has enabled us to preserve one of Irondale's iconic buildings and share the colourful history through newsletters.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created extra challenges. The fact that community centres are closed and public gatherings have been suspended, your board of directors has had to cancel all events for a second year.

We could really use your help right now. The B.L.C.D. is committed to being here long term, continuing to fight for heritage in our beautiful village. In the short term, we really need your support. The events are where we gather the funds to continue our charitable obligations.

If you are able, please consider making a one-time or monthly gift to BLCD. We are a lean volunteer organization and we are committed to responsible stewardship of your donations. If you believe in what we are doing, we hope you'll consider supporting us at this crucial time. (donation form is overleaf)

Thank You,
Carol Simmons, B.L.C.D. President

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

Hang this page on your refrigerator or next to your calendar so you don't miss out!

2021	**Rather than paint this calendar in red Cancelled stickers - We encourage you to take note of these annual events, check www.IrondaleOntario.ca and/or Facebook.com/IrondaleOntario to see if the event is actually happening**
Sat. Feb 22	**Portuguese Dinner** held at the Irondale Community Centre.
Sat. April 11	**Wilberforce Maplefest** Event All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast and lots of shopping
Sat. April 18	**Fish 'N Fowl Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre.
Sun. June 7	**First Church Service** - 10 am. Come as you are. **Book Nook Opening** - 11 am to 1 pm - no charge so help yourself
Sat. July 4 or 11	**Concert on the Lake** - Great music from the comfort of your own boat, canoe or paddleboard.
Sat. July 18	**Wild Game Dinner** - Popular dinner, held at the Gooderham Community Centre. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR THIS DINNER**
Sat. Aug 1 **Sun. Aug 2**	Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's AGM 10 am at the Irondale Community Centre Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's Canoe Race, BBQ and Children's Games
Mid August	**Irondale Inspirations** - the artists that call Irondale home will be showcasing their work
Sat. Sept 19	**Family Harvest Festival** - 11 to 4pm - Vendors, BBQ, displays, tours—
Sat Nov 7	**Themed Dinner** held at the Irondale Community Centre.

PLEASE FOLLOW US *www.facebook/IrondaleOntario and VISIT* OUR WEBSITE *www.IrondaleOntario.ca*

YES - I understand the yearly fundraisers have been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, therefore I want to help with the restoration of the heritage building, referred to as *the Irondale Church*.

Please find my cheque enclosed. I know you will send me an income tax receipt.

Name

Mailing Address

Town, Province, Postal Code

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Please make your cheque payable to Bark Lake Cultural Developments (B.L.C.D.) and mail to P.O. Box 113, Irondale, ON, K0M 1X0

We Thank You in Advance for Your Generosity